

II. Remarks

In the Non-Final Office Action dated December 20, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 for being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-7, 11-15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,444,125 to Welsch et al (“Welsch”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,478,302 to Chirumbolo (“Chirumbolo”). In addition, the Examiner deemed claims 8-10 and 16 allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claims 19-28 have been added, however no new subject matter has been added.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner deemed claims 8-10 and 16 allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 5, 8, and 16, and added new claim 28 to incorporate various recitations of claims 5 and 8. Applicant has further clarified and simplified the language of claim 8, thereby broadening the scope of cancelled claim 1 in new claim 28. Applicant asserts that independent claim 28 in its present form is allowable without inclusion of all of the recitations from intervening claims 2-4. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow independent claim 28, and claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-15, and 18 which depend from claim 28.

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B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

1. Rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 had been cancelled. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify the phrase “two engagement elements.”

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 11-15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Welsch in View of Chirumbolo

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 11-15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welsch in view of Chirumbolo. As explained above, Applicant asserts that by incorporating various recitations of claims 1, 5, and 8, new independent claim 28 is allowable in its present form, as are all claims depending from it.

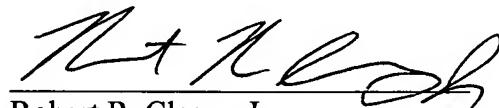
In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant will discuss the Welsch and Chirumbolo references with respect to the new claims 19-27.

Welsch discloses a work table with collars and sleeves to engage support posts. Welsch at Abstract. However, Welsch fails to disclose at least “a leg comprising a pin extending radially outward on opposite sides of the leg” and “a mounting component received in the socket member having a pair of *opposed axial slots* receiving portions of said pin extending radially from the leg, wherein the pin is moveable in the slots, wherein the leg is *axially moveable* relative to the mounting component” as claimed in independent claim 19. Chirumbolo fails to fill this gap.

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Chirumbolo discloses an electrical connector wherein mating parts are fastened to each other by means of a bayonet-type lock comprised of a plurality of pins and a like number of slots. Chirumbolo at Abstract. However, Chirumbolo fails to disclose at least “a leg comprising a pin extending radially outward on opposite sides of the leg” and “a mounting component received in the socket member having a pair of *opposed axial slots* receiving portions of said pin extending radially from the leg, wherein the pin is moveable in the slots, wherein the leg is *axially moveable* relative to the mounting component” as claimed in independent claim 19. Instead, Chirumbolo merely discloses bayonet-type helical slots, not axial slots. As such, the combination of Welsch and Chirumbolo fails to disclose that which is claimed in independent claim 19. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20-27.

Respectfully submitted,



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